

# THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER.

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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## AGRICULTURE

### HARRY FARMER'S TALKS.

XCVI.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

We paid the Sunny South Colony at Chadbourn, N. C., a visit last week, and were well pleased with the improvements made by our Western friends. They are trying fruits of various kinds, such as apples, plums, peaches, pears, etc. We shall watch the experiment with interest. If it proves a success, it will open up an industry of much importance to Eastern Carolina.

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We noticed that they are using geese for keeping grass out of the strawberry fields during the summer. This saves a great deal of hard work. Geese have been used for this purpose in cotton a long time. All that is necessary is to keep the middles plowed and a good supply of water, and they will keep the grass out of the rows.

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One of the most successful growers plants his berries on small ridges and uses fertilizers heavily. He has learned that you can not get something for nothing, so he spends anywhere from \$10 to \$15 per acre for fertilizers for his berries. The plants are a long way ahead of the average now and, if they continue on, will produce an immense crop of early berries. This is the first lesson that all successful truckers have to learn: to use about three times the quantity of manure that the crops require.

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The crops through this section are being gathered now. The cotton crop will be an average crop. Corn is turning out much better than was expected. Some farmers report fine sweet potato crops. We see more second crop Irish potatoes than is usual. Rice is light, owing to dry weather late in the season. Some claim the best crop of cow peas ever grown. The hay is not so good, as the army worm took all the early grass.

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We have noticed that farmers who gave their crops thorough and often cultivation through the growing season have done well and made paying crops. How often have we seen this before! It will surprise any one to see what he can gain by keeping the top of the ground well stirred during dry weather. It will cost an average farmer about 35 cents an

acre to run two furrows to the row of such crops as cotton or tobacco, and about 30 cents for corn. Now if you can get 25 pounds of cotton or one bushel of corn for giving a little extra work, don't you see it will pay well? Who will think of this next year, and try it?

HARRY FARMER.

Columbus Co., N. C.

### Winter Planting of Strawberries at the South.

Editor of The Progressive Farmer:

Anywhere south of the Mason and Dixon's line the strawberry may be set at any time during fall, winter or spring, provided the ground is not too wet to walk on or not actually frozen at the time. In many respects winter is the safest of all times to plant. Air and soil are then cool or cold and moist, just the condition that the strawberry revels in. For it is decidedly a cool weather plant, extending its root growth every day during the winter that the ground is not frozen, even though the frost keeps its leaves nipped off as fast as they peer out. The moment that the heaviest frost abates in the spring, leaf growth begins, and close on the heels of this come the blooms. Then before most other fruit has well begun to bloom, strawberries are ripe and the average mortal is happy.

Heat and drought are the great foes of the strawberry. The Southern grower avoids harm from these foes at planting time by setting plants in weather as cool or cold as practicable. We plant largely in late fall and in the dead of winter. It is the rarest thing in the world for cold weather to do direct harm to the strawberry plant at the South. The only indirect harm it can do is on wet stiff soil to heave or lift the crust of the soil up by freezing. This also lifts the plants and leaves the roots exposed to the wind and sun when the freeze over the soil subsides to its normal level.

There is no danger of this only on wet, soggy soil which keeps saturated and is therefore greatly subject to heaving when frozen. Even on this soil planting may be safely done in dead of winter provided care is taken to step directly on the plant after it is set. This compresses the soil around it, prevents an excess of water from soaking in just at that spot and greatly decreases the heaving effects of severe cold.

But there is a much better plan

than this whenever it is practicable. That is to put about a fork full of coarse manure evenly around and on the plants. This gives the desired protection of the soil around the plants from cold and the fertilizing properties are leached out and washed in where the roots can at once appropriate them. In fact, this is the best way that stable manure can be applied to the strawberry plant, North or South. The coarse litter after the fertilizing properties leak out makes an excellent mulch to keep the berries clear of grit the following spring. If too much manure has fallen on the plant it will be necessary to remove some of it about time growth begins in spring and leave it around and between the plants.

If manure cannot be had to mulch the plants set in dead of winter on wet and soggy land, any coarse litter or straw will answer. Forest leaves do very well only that they are more liable to be blown off by high winds, and being so much broader they are more apt to smother the plants. Pine straw is an ideal mulch, than which there is nothing better.

The mulching directions for winter set plants which we have just given is for the North or for such soil at the South as is much given to wetness and to heaving in the coldest weather. We plant over one hundred acres every winter on ordinary soil without any protection or any precaution except to set the plants properly.

O. W. BLACKNALL.

Vance Co., N. C.

A Hertford, N. C., correspondent of The Progressive Farmer, writes: "Crops in this part of the State are about matured and (except cotton, which is something short of an average), we think that we have the best crops for many years. Corn is phenomenal. Potatoes, both sweet and Irish, are all that could be asked. Cornfield peas and peanuts are excellent. Gardens and pastures are good. Fruit, apples, grapes, and pears, are abundant and cheap. Fall oats and clover are very fine. Our people know, or ought to know, how to appreciate these blessings, for perhaps this generation never labored under greater disadvantages to make a crop—no crops to speak of last year, nothing to pay debts with, and no feed for the teams, but some way we have got along. I went through the central part of the State first of the month, and was sorry to see such poor crops in many localities. Farmers say their crops are not so good as last year; can't see what they will do."

### Meeting of the State Agricultural Society.

The annual meeting of the North Carolina State Agricultural Society will take place Thursday night of Fair Week in the Capitol. This is one of the most important meetings to be held during the Fair, and its program is looked for with much interest by the State.

The program for this year promises to be unusually attractive. It consists of seven papers and speeches discussing practical agricultural problems, presented by seven students in the Agricultural Department of the A. and M. College. These discussions promise to be decidedly interesting and instructive. The whole affair illustrates most forcibly the growth of the A. and M. College and especially the growth of its Agricultural Department. The program is as follows:

"Bacteria: Useful and Injurious," Cadet J. E. Coit, of Rowan County.

"Practical Butter-Making," Cadet J. W. Bullock, Granville County.

"Rusts of the Cereals," Cadet J. C. Beavers, Wake County.

"Smuts of the Cereals," Cadet S. W. Foster, Anson County.

"Conformation of Beef and Dairy Cattle," Cadet W. W. Finlev, Wilkes County.

"Insects as Disease Distributors," Cadet C. W. Martin, Portsmouth, Va.

"Soil Culture and Legumes," Cadet J. C. Temple, Moore County.

### Call for Meeting of Tobacco Growers.

Cuningham, N. C., Oct. 15, 1902.

To the Tobacco Growers:

There will be a meeting of the Tobacco Growers' Association at the Capitol in Raleigh on Thursday night, October 30, 1902. I greatly desire to have the farmers from all over North Carolina to meet and discuss the tobacco situation at the present time. The outlook is for one of the greatest State Fairs in the history of the State, and it will be wise for the farmers to attend the Fair and to witness the exhibits of all kinds from every part of the State.

Not only farmers are invited to be present at this meeting, but all persons interested in the tobacco business.

State papers will please copy the call for this meeting.

JOHN S. CUNNINGHAM,  
Pres. N. C. Tobacco Growers' Asso.

French miners have voted for a general strike.